

From: Brian Bliss
To: Microsoft ATR,jaquelyn@attbi.com@inetgw
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Subject: Another example of Microsoft's behavior

Here is just one example of Microsoft's anti-competitive conduction that may have been overlooked:

Somewhere in the 1997-1998 time frame, Netscape Communicator was distributed online as a single downloadable file of approximately 13 Mb. At the same time, Internet Explorer limited the size of files that it could download to just under that, so that you could not use Internet Explorer to download the latest version of Communicator. Instead, one had to download an older version of Communicator and install it, then use it to download the latest version.

This "trap" frustrated a friend of mine enough that, after purchasing a new computer, he switched to using Internet Explorer (which was, of course, pre-installed on the new computer), when he preferred to continue using Communicator. The Internet Explorer file size limit was so close to the size of the file distributed by Netscape that I do not believe it was a coincidence.

I do not believe that Microsoft can be trusted to to comply with the spirit of any court order which limits its anticompetitive conduct. Even if the loopholes in the current remedy were closed so that Microsoft does not have control over the content that computer manufacturers add to Windows, it does not (nor can it) prevent Microsoft from producing software whose behavior makes it inconvenient to use a competitor's products. If Windows were distributed under an open source license, however, the anti-competitive tweaks that Microsoft adds to its software could be quickly located and removed.

Brian Bliss
42638 Isle Royal
Fremont, CA 94538
brianbliss@attbi.com
jaquelyn@attbi.com

